SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

*A Special Publication on the Occasion of the Society's Silver Anniversary*

# TURTLES OF VENEZUELA

## by Peter C. H. Pritchard and Pedro Trebbau

watercolors by Giorgio Voltolina

*(about 350 pages, 8-1/2 by 11 inches, 34 maps and 48 full-page color plates)*

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**THE BOOK.** This outstanding new book will be the first in-depth treatment of a major South American turtle fauna. It covers all turtles known from Venezuela including the mata mata and other side-necks (11 species), tortoises, pond and land turtles (6 species) and the sea turtles (5 species), together comprising fully half of the turtle species described from the South American continent and all species recorded from Trinidad, Guyana, Surinam and French Guiana. The monograph is based on a study of existing museum specimens, an in-depth review of the relevant literature and, most important, the results of intensive field study by both authors in all parts of Venezuela. They made many original observations and discovered two new forms, described here for the first time. Following a discussion of the zoogeography of South American turtles there is an illustrated key to species (in both English and Spanish). Each species account consists of a synonymy followed by a diagnosis; a detailed description (including shell, soft parts, color and sexual dimorphism); and sections on size and growth; distribution and geographic variation; habitat; feeding; reproduction; economic importance; vernacular names; and additional notes where appropriate. There is also a comprehensive bibliography and list of locality records.

The book is beautifully illustrated. There are 48 full-page plates in color, 26 of which are original watercolors and the remainder a collection of 160 photographs of both turtles and their habitats. Samples of both are reproduced on the following pages. In addition, there are two distribution maps for each species: a spot map showing the detailed Venezuelan distribution and a map showing the continent-wide range.

**THE AUTHORS.** Peter C. H. Pritchard, an Englishman trained at Belfast and Oxford and later, as a student of Archie Carr, at the University of Florida, is currently Vice-President for Science and Research of the Florida Audubon Society. He is one of the world's leading authorities on turtles and is particularly well known for his two previous books, *Living Turtles of the World* (1967) and *Encyclopedia of Turtles* (1979), and over 75 scientific papers, many of them on the ecology and conservation of sea turtles. Dr. Pritchard is intimately involved in conservation, having served the World Wildlife Fund as Executive Officer for its Marine Turtle Specialist Group from 1969 to 1973. For his research he has travelled world-wide, with major field programs in Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, Central and South America, the West Indies, Papua New Guinea and Micronesia.

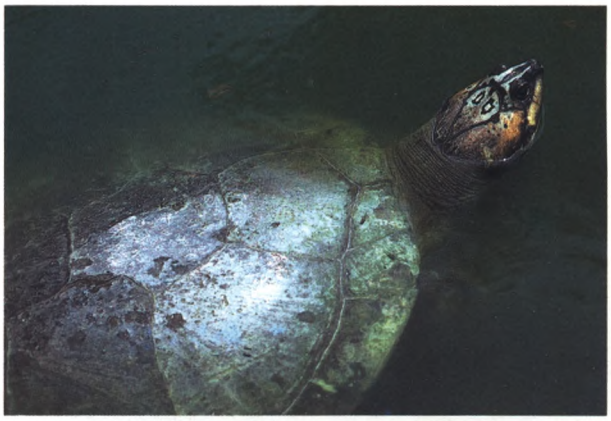
Pedro Trebbau is now Director of the Caricuao Zoological Park in Venezuela. Trained in Germany as a veterinarian, his work has been largely in zoo administration and he is well known in Venezuela for his natural history television programs. His research and conservation activities have dealt largely with mammals, but he is known to herpetologists for his films on Orinoco turtles and his taxonomic work, with Janis Roze, on coral snakes.

**THE ARTIST.** Giorgio Voltolina, an Italian, was trained at the Liceo Artistico in Venice and, after emigrating to Venezuela in 1955, worked as artist and taxidermist for several natural history and academic institutions. His illustrations have appeared regularly in scientific publications and in high school and university textbooks, and include all vertebrate groups. Voltolina's drawing of the jaguar, giant armadillo and cock-of-the-rock were chosen for reproduction in a series of gold and silver medals commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund. His magnificent and lifelike watercolors of Venezuelan turtles will, we believe, set a new standard for comparison.

**PRICES.** Following the sample plates.

PLATE 16: *GEOCHELONE CARBONARIA*

# PLATE 26

A 

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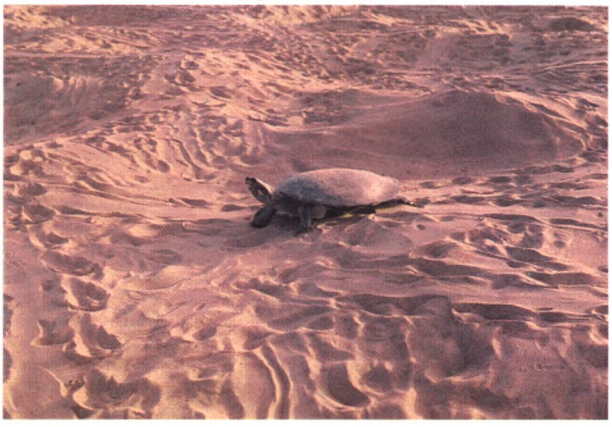 F

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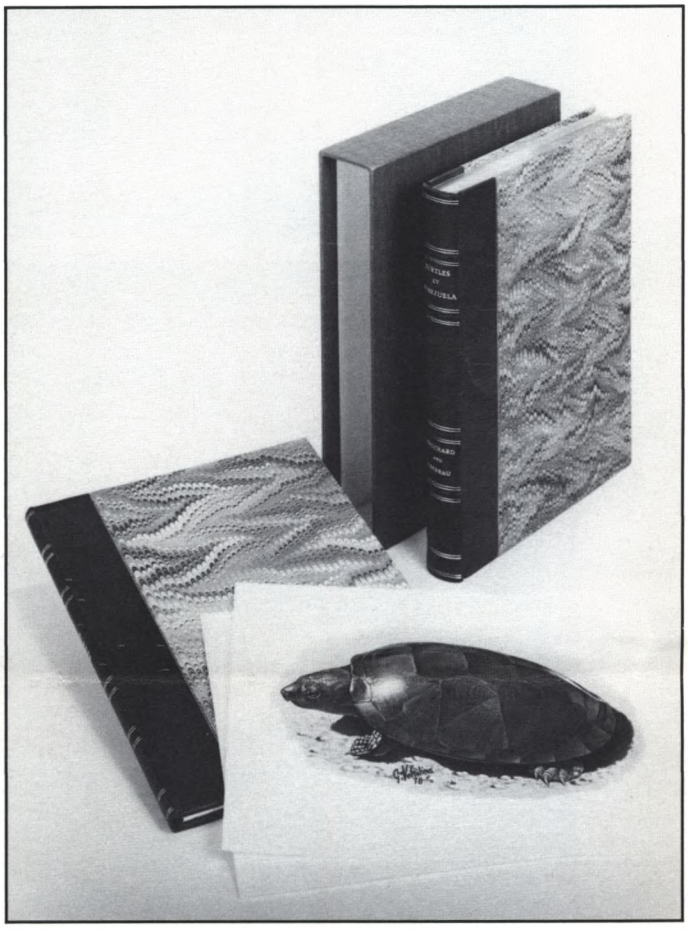

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